



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300

Conway, Arkansas 72032

Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480



March 7, 2011

Dear School Principals,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will observe Endangered Species Day on May 20, 2011. This represents the fourth year that Endangered Species Day celebrations have occurred in Arkansas, and the second year that we have hosted an Endangered Species Day Art Contest. Our contest last year was a huge success. We had 1,679 entries from 76 schools and 11 home schools. We encourage your school to participate in our second annual art contest. Endangered Species Day provides opportunities to celebrate our heritage of fish, wildlife, and plants and the ecosystems on which they depend. Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people young and old to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species and everyday actions that people can take to help protect our nation's disappearing wildlife and their last remaining habitats. Protecting America's wildlife and plants today is a legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren, so that all Americans can experience the rich variety of native species that help define our nation.

This year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office is focusing greater attention on what we can do to promote youth education regarding the importance of protecting not only America's wildlife, plants, and their habitats but specifically what we can do to help protect these animals and plants and the places they live in Arkansas.

Curriculum developed by the Endangered Species Coalition, a non-profit organization that works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to celebrate Endangered Species Day, is available on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>. Partners also include the National Association of Biology Teachers and National Science Teachers Association among others. Curriculum developed by other environmental education programs such as Project WET and WILD and Project Learning Tree may compliment lessons focused on endangered species. Additionally, **we are providing endangered species teacher packets, coloring books, and other related information including specific information on Arkansas' endangered and threatened species and the places they live on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.**

We formally request your support by disseminating this information to your teachers and encouraging their participation. Teachers of all disciplines are encouraged to participate. **To encourage our State's educators to help us promote Endangered Species Day, our office is sponsoring a state art contest. The requirements for the state art contest can be found on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.** Art work will be evaluated based on the following age groups: 1) K – Grade 2, 2) Grades 3 – 5, 3) Grades 6 – 8, and 4) Grades 9 – 12. We will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place plaques for each age group. Entries must be postmarked April 29, 2011. The 1st place through 3rd place winners in each category also will

receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 Visa Gift Cards, respectively, with their plaques. We will award an overall winner with a \$250 Visa Gift Card. We will work with local, regional, and state newspapers to recognize the winners.

Information and resources regarding this event are available on our web site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>. We appreciate your support and cooperation in promoting endangered species conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Leone at 501-513-4472 or Chris Davidson at 501-513-448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Boggs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James F. Boggs
Field Supervisor